1796

DOCKET NO.: 285127US0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| IN RE APPLICATION OF: | : |
| TOSHIHIRO KASAI, ET AL. | : EXAMINER: REDDY, KARUNA P. |
| SERIAL NO.: 10/566,277 | : |
| FILED: JANUARY 30, 2006 | : GROUP ART UNIT: 1796 |
| FOR: TWO-PACK TYPE ACRYLIC SOL COMPOSITION | : |

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated June 12, 2008, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-13 are pending, claims 7, 8 and 10-13 having been withdrawn from consideration.

Withdrawn Claims

For the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that all pending claims presently subject to examination are in condition for allowance. Because the withdrawn claims depend from, and thus recite all features of, allowable claim 1, rejoinder and allowance of claims 7, 8 and 10-13 are respectfully requested.

OK TO ENTER: /KR/
09/16/2008

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,232,135 to Bentley et al. ("Bentley"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a] two-pack type plastisol composition, comprising: a liquid composition (LA); and a liquid composition (LB); wherein: the plastisol composition after mixing the compositions (LA) and (LB) has a gelation time, as measured at 30° C, of one hour or less; the liquid composition (LA) comprises fine acrylic polymer particles (A) and a platicizer (B) as a dispersion medium in which the particles (A) are substantially insoluble at room temperature, provided that the dispersion medium (B) may have dissolving power to the particles (A) when heated; and the liquid composition (LB) comprises an organic solvent (C) having sufficiently high dissolving power to dissolve the particles (A) at room temperature." Bentley does not disclose or suggest such a composition.

Bentley discloses a system including a disperse phase including polymer microparticles and a continuous phase that can cure to a film-forming polymeric material by means of a condensation reaction. *See* Bentley, column 1, lines 56 to 68. The system may be provided as a "two-pack" system in which the continuous phase is completed only shortly before application of system to a substrate. *See* Bentley, column 2, lines 56 to 68. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the liquid composition (LB) comprises an organic solvent (C) having sufficiently high dissolving power to dissolve the particles (A) at room temperature." The polymer microparticles of Bentley are intended to be insoluble in the disclosed continuous phase. *See* Bentley, column 3, lines 32 to 44. That is, in contrast with the system of claim 1, the system of Bentley does not employ gelation (i.e., physical change by which phase dissolution of a liquid component in acrylic polymer fine particles occurs). Therefore the teachings of Bentley are not applicable to the system of claim 1.

The system of Bentley is designed to provide coatings with strong mechanical properties, such as impact strength. *See, e.g.*, Bentley, column 1, lines 39 to 55. In contrast, the plastisol composition of claim 1 is capable of providing soft coatings and soft molded articles. Bentley does not disclose or suggest the composition of claim 1, or the benefits stemming therefrom.

As explained, claim 1 would not have been rendered obvious by Bentley. Claim 3-6 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Bentley. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-8 and 10-13 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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